

Message Text

SECRET

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01

SAJ-01 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01 EB-11 FEA-02 COA-02 DLOS-06

/135 W

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O 200515Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 941

S E C R E T SAIGON 865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, CH, TS, VS

SUBJECT: PRCGVN CLASH IN PARACELS

REF: SAIGON 863

1. WE THINK IN FRAMING POSSIBLE COMMENT TO PRESS ON SUBJECT OF PRC-GVN CLASH IN PARACELS WE SHOULD KEEP VERY MUCH IN MIND WHETHER OR NOT THIS INCIDENT WILL TEND TO MOVE PRC TO INCREASE ITS SUPPORT OF THE DRV. ALTHOUGH HANOI HAS NOT MADE ANY COMPLAINT CONCERNING NATIONALISTIC FEELS OF ALL VIETNAMESE THEIR ATTITUDE ON THIS ISSUE MUST BE ABOUT THE SAME AS THAT OF THE GVN. WE HAVE HAD BITS AND PIECES OF EVIDENCE THAT THE DRV, ASSUMING ITS ULTIMATE VICTORY OVER THE GVN, IS ALREADY CONCERNED ABOUT OFFSHORE OIL IN SVN AS WELL AS IN THEIR OWN TERRITORY. WE WOULD THEREFORE THINK THAT EXERCISE OF FORCE MAJEURE BY THE PRC TO OCCUPY TERRITORY LONG CLAIMED BY ALL VIETNAMESE, NORTH AND SOUTH, IS AN ISSUE, WHICH IF DEPT COULD DEVISE APPROPRIATE MODALITIES, COULD BE EXPLOITED AS A DIVISIVE WEDGE BETWEEN HANOI AND PEKING.

2. PRC IS MANIFESTLY EMBARKED ON EFFORT TO NAIL DOWN CLAIM TO A SHARE OF THE PRESUMABLY OIL-RICH CONTINENTAL SHELF OF SOUTH

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CHINA SEA. FACT THAT SPRATLY ISLANDS MAY BE NEXT ON THEIR LIST

ADDS URGENCY TO ABOVE SUBJECT.

MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, ISLAND CLAIMS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740129/aaaabbec.tel
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAIGON 863
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Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005